

Serial No. 09/128,721

Purpose of the Amendment

The instant amendment was filed to alleviate claim numbering questions raised in a telephone conference between the undersigned and Ms. Denise Boyd, of Examining Group 1700. Ms. Boyd raised questions regarding the status of certain pending claims (most specifically, claims 35-38).

Applicants determined that canceling the claims at issue and submitting new claims to correspond to the canceled claims would be the easiest way to resolve the issues raised by Ms. Boyd. The time and attention of Ms. Boyd is greatly appreciated by Applicants and Applicants' representative.

With respect to the present amendment, previously pending claims 35-42 have been cancelled and rewritten as new claims 43-50. For example, previously claim 35 was rewritten as claim 43. Previous claim 36 was rewritten as claim 44, and so on.

RCE/Previous Amendment filed on September 3, 2002

On September 3, 2002, following a productive personal interview with the Examiner, Applicants filed a RCE and accompanying Amendment. That Amendment addresses the outstanding issues of the previous Office Action and the personal interview. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to that Amendment for a discussion of the remaining issues.

Additionally, with respect to claims 37, 38, and 40, all of which were amended on September 3, 2002, the corresponding claims filed herewith incorporate those changes.

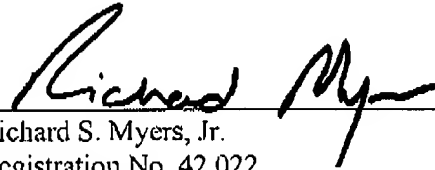
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Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is in order and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Amendment or the Application in general, he is respectfully urged to contact Richard S. Myers, Jr. (Reg. No. 42,022) at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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